2005
Alberta Centennial

VICTIMS PROGRAMS

STATUS REPORT

2004/2005

Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security

TABLE OF CONTENTS

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS 3

VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT 4

HISTORY 4

VICTIMS OF CRIME PROGRAMS COMMITTEE 5

COMMITTEE MEMBERS 5
COMMITTEE MEETINGS 5

FUNDING AGREEMENTS 6

GRANT FUNDING FORMULA 6
GRANTS PROVIDED 7
POLICE BASED PROGRAMS 7
COMMUNITY PROGRAMS 11

PROGRAM ACTIVITY 14

INTRODUCTION 14
NEW CASES 14
PERSONS ASSISTED 15
TYPE OF ASSISTANCE 16
VOLUNTEER HOURS 16

ALBERTA SOLICITOR GENERAL INITIATIVES 17

VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT PROGRAM 17
REQUESTING RESTITUTION PROGRAM 18
VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR TRAINING 19
VICTIM ADVOCATE TRAINING MANUAL 20
QUARTERLY REPORT FORM 20
VICTIMS OF CRIME WEBSITE 20

APPENDIX A - ALBERTA POLICE BASED VICTIM SERVICE UNITS 21

BROCHURES 22
CONTACT US 22

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS*

- Grants totaling $3,194,739 were provided to 88 victim assistance programs in fiscal year 2004/05. This is the largest annual amount of Victim of Crime Fund grants provided by Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security. Of this, $1,321,544 was paid out to applicants applying for funding in the 2004/05 fiscal year. The remaining $1,873,195 were for programs that received multi-year grants in previous years.

- Seventy-two percent (72%) or $2,300,846 of grant funds for 2004/05 applicants were provided to police-based (RCMP, municipal police, and First Nations police) programs.

- Twenty-eight percent (28%) or $893,893 of grant funds were provided to community initiatives.

- As of March 31, 2005, Alberta's network of police-based victim assistance programs consisted of 78 programs operating 112 victim service units. Not all police-based victim assistance programs received funding in 2004/05.

- Victim service programs reported handling 33,850 new cases. Over half (54%) involved assisting victims of violent crime.

- Programs reported providing services to 44,591 people in 2004/05, of which 37,420 (84%) were adults and 7,171 (16%) were children.

- The type of assistance most frequently provided for new and ongoing cases was providing information.

- Approximately 1,687 volunteer advocates and Board members contributed a total of 234,857 volunteer hours.

- Providing general assistance (information, crisis intervention and referrals), accounted for 48% of volunteers' time.

- A total of 2,657 Victim Impact Statements were forwarded to the Crown and the Courts.

- Victim Impact Statements were most often completed and filed in cases of common assault, domestic assault and sexual assault.

- During the year, 1,626 Requests for Restitution were completed and of these, 1,506 were forwarded to the Crown. The majority (64%) of requests concerned non-violent crimes.

*The statistics in the Victims Programs Status Report include one victim assistance program that has not applied to receive a grant from Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security.

VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT

History

The *Victims' Programs Assistance Act,* proclaimed January 16, 1991, established the Victims Programs Assistance Fund and provided for the appointment of a Victims Programs Assistance Committee. The Committee was established to review grant applications for programs and services that benefit victims of crime and to make recommendations respecting funding to the Solicitor General and Minister of Public Security.

The *Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)* was proclaimed August 1, 1997, for all provisions of the *Act*, except those directly associated with the delivery of financial benefits to individual victims of crime. On November 1, 1997, the financial benefits section was proclaimed. The *Victims of Crime Act* replaced the *Victims' Programs Assistance Act* and *Criminal Injuries Compensation Act*, and established the authority to collect surcharges of 15% on provincial statute offences.

A Fund into which provincial and federal surcharges are collected and deposited was also established under the *Victims of Crime Act*. Section 10 of the *Act* provides for payments from the Fund. Expenditures include grants approved by the Solicitor General and Minister of Public Security, costs incurred by the Victims of Crime Programs Committee, the Criminal Injuries Review Board, expenses to persons whose services are engaged by the Solicitor General and Public Security, and financial benefits payable to victims of crime for injuries suffered. Salaries, benefits and other expenditures related to the administration of the *Act* are also paid from the Fund.

The *Act* includes principles respecting the treatment of victims and, establishes entitlements for victims to obtain certain information.

On March 10, 2004, Bill 12 was introduced in the Alberta Legislature to amend the *Victims of Crime Act*. The *Act* was amended to enhance the principles for victims of crime by incorporating the Canadian Statement of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime. While the new Principles reiterate the basic principles regarding courtesy, compassion, respect, privacy, financial benefits and minimized inconvenience, they also give victims a more meaningful role in the criminal justice system. The amended Principles indicate that: the victims views and concerns are important, information should be provided regarding the victim's role and opportunities to participate in the criminal justice processes, and clarifies the types of information victims are entitled to receive. The amendment came into effect on May 10, 2005.

Under the *Victims of Crime Act,* an office of the Director was created. This office operates within the Public Security Division, under the Department of the Solicitor General and Public Security, and is responsible for the administration of the *Act*. Victims who do not feel they have been treated in accordance with the principles of the *Act* can

History

obtain information from this office as to how to resolve their concerns.

Two core programs operate under *Victims of Crime Act* - a financial benefits program for individual victims who have suffered injury as a result of a violent criminal offence, and a grants program that provides funding to groups and organizations offering information, assistance and support to victims during their involvement in the criminal justice process.

In 2004/2005, $8,376,492 was provided to eligible victims of crime by the Victims of Crime Financial Benefits Program for physical or emotional injuries sustained as a result of violent crime in Alberta. The Victims of Crime Fund also provided $3,194,739 to Alberta police and community-based programs that provided services to victims of crime.

This Victims Programs Status Report focuses on the Victims of Crime Act Grants Program. Key performance measures related to victims can be found in the Alberta Solicitor General Annual Report 2004-2005 at: http://www.solgen.gov.ab.ca/publications.

VICTIMS OF CRIME PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

The *Act* established the Victims of Crime Programs Committee appointed by the Solicitor General and Minister of Public Security. The Committee evaluates applications for grants to programs and makes recommendations to the Solicitor General and Minister of Public Security on grant funding. Funding decisions made by the Minister are based upon the Committee's recommendations.

Committee Members

The Committee consists of four members, with two members representing the community at-large, one member representing police, and one member representing government.

Members during 2004/2005 were:

Mr. Richard Smedstad (Chairman), member-at-large, Sherwood Park, Alberta;
Ms. Donna Huestis (RCMP K Division, Edmonton), representing police;
Ms. Diane Wickenheiser, member-at-large, Hays, Alberta;
Mr. Peter Teasdale (Alberta Justice), representing government

Committee Meetings

Meetings are scheduled twice per year to evaluate grant applications submitted for the April 1st and October 1st application deadlines. The Committee met on June 3rd, 2004 and on December 8th and 9th, 2004. In 2004/2005, 88 grant applications were recommended for funding by the Committee and approved by the Minister.

FUNDING AGREEMENTS

Grant Funding Formula

Programs approved for funding are required to enter into agreements that outline terms and conditions to be met. In accordance with the agreement, funded programs are required to submit quarterly statistics, financial statements, and an evaluation report upon expiry of their funding term.

On October 1, 1999, a new grant funding formula was introduced to help ensure that grant monies are allocated fairly and equitably throughout the province. The formula is used to calculate a base funding amount for eligible programs. The formula:

- Allocates a specified amount from the Victims of Crime Fund to police-based programs that provide basic services; and
- Utilizes a per crime amount that has been calculated using violent crime statistics from Uniform Crime Report data submitted to the Department of the Solicitor General and Public Security by all police services.

Police-based programs may receive discretionary funding if any of the following discretionary factors apply:

- large geographical area/low population density;
- unique demographics;
- weaker economic base;
- lack of other support services;
- new programs/projects; and
- other special circumstances that may be identified by the applicant.

Eligible specialized community programs/projects that benefit victims during the criminal justice process and are non-police-based are also eligible for discretionary funding.

The 2004/2005 fiscal year was the sixth year that eligible programs received multi-year grant funding commitments allowing them to budget for the future. To be considered eligible, an established program must have operated successfully for three years in partnership with Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security, met the conditions of previous funding agreements, and demonstrated sound management practices.

Grant Funding

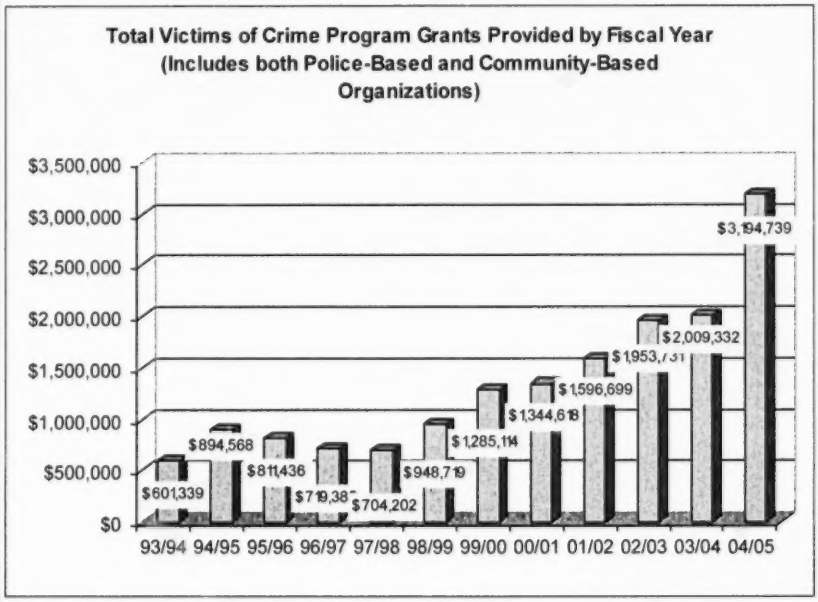
The Report of the Alberta Victims of Crime Consultation was based on consultations with victims, service providers and stakeholders across Alberta. The Report, released in July, 2004, established a ten year strategic direction for victims of crime programs and services, and made recommendations to ensure victims have a more meaningful role in the criminal justice system. Accepted Recommendation C4 of the Report states: "Increase funding for victims' programs and services."

Grants Provided

On August 31, 2004, as a result of accepted Recommendation C4, it was announced that the overall annual funding for approved grant applications was increased from $2 million to $3.6 million. For the October, 2004, grant application period, Victim of Programs Grants for eligible programs increased from a minimum of $2,000 to $8,000 and from a maximum of $75,000 to $100,000.

Grants totaling $3,194,739 were provided to 88 programs for the 2004/2005 year. This was a 59% ($1,185,407) increase in grant funds provided from 2003/2004 ($2,009,332) and was the highest dollar amount in 14 years and the history of the program (Figure 1). The $3,194,739 were grant funds provided to programs during the 2004/2005 fiscal year and includes grant recipients from previous years that received multi-year funding. Of the programs that received funding, 42 were provided grants for a one year term or received the first installment of a multi-year grant for a total of $1,321,544. The remaining 46 programs were provided multi-year funding in either 2002/2003 or 2003/2004 and received their second or third year installments for a total of $1,873,195 for the 2004/2005 year.

Figure 1

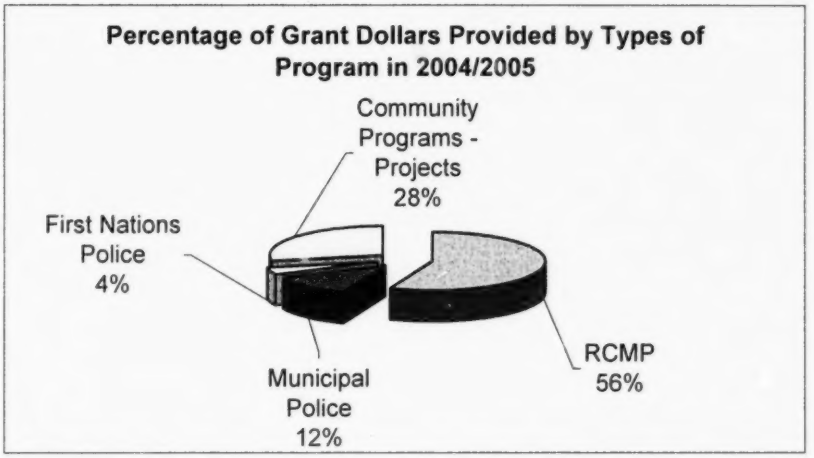


Police Based Programs

Grants to police-based victim assistance programs accounted for 72%, or $2,300,846 of the total grants allocated in 2004/2005. Of that amount, 78% or $1,783,346 was provided to RCMP affiliated victim service units, 17% or $392,500 was provided to municipal police services, and the remaining 5% or $125,000 was provided to First Nations police services.

Police Based Programs

Figure 2


Percentage of Grant Dollars Provided by Types of Program in 2004/2005
Community Programs - Projects 28%
First Nations Police 4%
RCMP 56%
Municipal Police 12%

Police-based programs receive funding priority, although community programs that provide services to victims also receive funding. Of the total grant funds provided to both police-based and community victim assistance programs in 2004/2005, RCMP victim service units received 56% of the total grant funds, municipal police received 12% and First Nations police received 4%. Community programs received 28% of the total grant funds provided, or $893,893. (Figure 2)

As a result of community support and grants from the Victims of Crime Fund, a network of police-based victim assistance programs has been established that provides access to services for victims in 98% of the province, which is an increase of 2% compared to 2003/2004 (Appendix A). Three new police-based programs were approved for funding: Coronation/Consort Victim Services, Fox Creek RCMP Victim Service Unit and Red Deer City RCMP Victim Service Unit. As of March 31, 2005, there were 78 police-based victims programs operating a total of 112 victims service units in Alberta.

Services provided to victims include intervention and support, information about their case and criminal justice proceedings, information about medical, legal and social services that can help, referrals to other community agencies, and court room orientation and accompaniment. These programs also provide victims of crime with information and assistance in completing victim impact statements, requesting restitution, and applying for financial benefits. Police-based programs provide a continuum of services to victims from the time of first response by police to the disposition of the case by the Courts, and provide services in accordance with provincial guidelines.

Implementing a recommendation of the Victims of Crime Consultation allowed for an increase of base funding to $8,000 and an increase in the maximum to $100,000. Grant amounts shown that are less than the new minimum grant allocation of $8,000 were awarded prior to the

Police Based Programs

implementation of the recommendation, or were increases to previously approved grants.

The following grants were provided for police-based programs in 2004/2005:

Assumption Region Community Policing Society:	***$30,000***
Bashaw RCMP Victim Assistance Society	***$9,490***
Beaverlodge RCMP Victims Assistance Association	***$20,000***
Blood Tribe Victim Service Unit	***$75,000***
Bonnyville Victim Services Society	***$25,000***
Bow Island/Foremost Victim Services	***$8,000***
Coronation/Consort Victims Services	***$18,000***
Crisis Association of Vegreville	***$15,000***
Fort Macleod & District Victim Services Association	***$22,417***
Fox Creek RCMP Victim Service Unit	***$8,000***
(formerly part of Highway 43 RCMP Victims' Service Unit Society)	
Grande Cache Victim Services Society	***15,000***
Heartland Victim Services Unit Society	***$10,550***
Innisfail RCMP Victim Service Unit	***$10,000***
Lesser Slave Lake Regional Police Service	***$50,000***
Lethbridge Regional Police Service Victim/Witness Services	***100,000***
Mackenzie Regional Community Policing Society	***$40,000***
Midwest Victim Services	***$15,000***
(formerly Lloydminster Regional Victim Services Program)	
Peace River Victim Services Society	***$50,000***
Ponoka Victims Services Association	***$18,000***
Red Deer City RCMP Victim Services	***$87,745***
Red Deer Rural Victim Assistance Society	***$11,300***
Redcliff Victim Service Unit Association	***$8,000***
Redwater - Smoky Lake Victim Services Society	***$20,000***
Rimbey & District Victim Services Society	***$8,000***
Sylvan Lake & District Victim Services Association	***$9,000***
Taber/Vauxhall Victim Services Unit	***$14,994***
Three Hills Victims Assistance Program	***$2,005***
Vulcan Regional Victim Services Society	***$5,000***
Total	***$705,501***

In addition to the grants listed above, the Victims of Crime Fund also supported the following police-based programs which were awarded multi-year grants in 2001/2002, 2002/2003, or 2003/2004:

Airdrie & District Victim Assistance Society	***$25,000***
Athabasca Regional Victim Services Society	***$20,000***
Barrhead Community Victim Services Unit Association	***$11,500***
Battle River Victim Assistance Society	***$40,000***
Big Country Victim Services Association	***$40,000***
Bow Valley Victim Services Association	***$30,000***
Brooks & District Victims' Assistance Association	***$34,850***

Police Based Programs

Calgary Police Service Victim Assistance Unit (for2004-05)	*$100,000*
Calgary Police Service Victim Assistance Unit (additional for quarter 2003-04)	*$25,000*
Cardium Region Victim Services Society	*$35,000*
Chinook Arch Victim's Services Society (for 2004-05)	*$35,000*
Chinook Arch Victim's Services Society (additional for 2003-04)	*$6,537*
Cochrane & Area Victim Services Society (for 2004-05)	*$42,980*
Cochrane & Area Victim Services Society (additional for 2003-04)	*$5,280*
Cold Lake Victim Services Society	*$15,000*
Edmonton Police Service	*$100,000*
Edson and District Victim Services Society	*$23,000*
Fort McMurray Victim Services Society	*$63,000*
Grande Prairie & District RCMP Victims' Assistance Program Association	*$85,000*
High Level Community Policing Society	*$33,763*
Highway 43 RCMP Victims' Services Unit Society	*$32,429*
Hinton District Victim Services Society	*$23,750*
Lac La Biche Society, Victims Services Unit	*$35,000*
Lacombe Victim Services Association	*$12,500*
Leduc and District Victim Assistance Society (for 2004-05)	*$41,211*
Leduc and District Victim Assistance Society (additional for 2003-04)	*$21,719*
Lethbridge Detachment Victim Assistance Society	*$ 3,500*
Medicine Hat Police Service	*$55,000*
Peace River Victim Services Society	*$10,000*
Pincher Creek & District Victim Assistance Society	*$35,000*
Rocky & District Victim Services Unit Society	*$35,081*
Slave Lake Victim Services Society	*$30,000*
St. Albert Victim Service Association	*$26,706*
St. Paul & Area Victim Services Society	*$40,000*
Strathcona County RCMP Victim Services Unit	*$14,000*
StrathconaCounty RCMP Victim Services Unit	*$14,000*
Strathmore Regional Victim Services Society	*$30,000*
Tofield & Area Victims Services Association	*$15,000*
Two Hills & Area Victim Services Society	*$8,000*
Victim Services Society of Stony Plain, Spruce Grove & District	*$80,000*
Victim Services Unit (Assoc.) - Sturgeon Region	*$28,936*
Volunteer Programs Assoc. - Fort Saskatchewan	*$25,000*
Wabasca Regional Victim Services Society	*$30,000*
Westlock Community Victim Services Unit Association	*$24,000*
Wetaskiwin & District Victim Services Society	*$58,583*
Total	*$1,595,345*
Total Grants Provided to Police-Based Programs in 2004-05	*$2,300,846*

The total amount provided to police-based victims programs was a 59% increase compared to 2003/2004.

Community Programs

Non-police-based, or community programs, usually offer more specialized services. Grants may be awarded to programs that provide specialized services to victims of a particular type of crime, for example, domestic violence, or they may be awarded on a one-time basis for projects. Grants were provided to the following groups in 2004/2005:

Alberta Provincial Victim Services Conference **$17,000**
The Provincial Victim Services Conference hosts provincial conferences for volunteer advocates, coordinators, board members and police liaisons whom provide services to victims of crime. The funding was used for the "Pulling Together 2005 Conference" held in Sherwood Park and featured topics such as: Prosecuting Domestic Violence, Threat Assessment and Safety Planning, Community Response to Crystal Meth, Self Care for Crisis Response Professionals, Understanding and Interacting with Persons with Developmental Disabilities, and Impacting Your Community.

ASSIST Community Services Centre ***$40,000***
ASSIST provides outreach services to Edmonton's Chinese community. This grant was provided to deliver culturally and linguistically relevant crisis intervention and outreach services for victims of crime in Edmonton's Chinese and Asian communities, as well as public education and enhanced community partnerships.

Calgary Communities Against Sexual Abuse (CCASA) ***$36,000***
CCASA program helps sexual abuse victims through the court process, and ensures court accompaniment. CCASA also provides individual and group counseling, school-based and community education programs, a hospital call-out service, as well as a 24-hour crisis line. This grant was awarded for the continuation of CCASA's Court Preparation Program to provide court preparation and support to victims of sexual abuse or assault in Calgary and surrounding areas.

Calgary Legal Guidance ***$50,000***
Calgary Legal Guidance provides clients with legal education on legal topics and the court system, emotional support, and safety planning at no cost to victims of domestic violence. The grant was provided for Calgary Legal Guidance's Court Preparation Program to provide court preparation, no-cost restraining orders, emotional support and safety planning for victims of domestic abuse in the Calgary and surrounding areas.

Central Alberta Victims' Assistance Society (CAVAS) ***$25,000***
CAVAS works together with 13 community member units in central Alberta (Rimbey, Innisfail, Ponoka, Camrose, Bashaw, Red Deer Rural, Stettler, Rocky Mountain House, Sylvan Lake, Wetaskiwin, Breton, Drayton Valley and Evansburg) to assist victims of crime and tragedy. The goals and objectives are to: create and maintain policies, procedures and service guidelines; share information, network and address issues; as well as conduct developmental training on an

Community Programs

ongoing and supporting basis. Funding was provided to continue to develop initiatives that leads to the highest level of professionalism, uniformity and productivity for its members.

Family Law Office ***$75,000***

The Family Law Office provides comprehensive, effective family law services to victims of domestic violence, including information, risk assessments, safety planning, referrals, and legal assistance with Emergency Protection Orders. The grant was provided for the Emergency Protection Order Program to provide free assistance and legal representation in obtaining Emergency Protection Orders to victims of domestic abuse in the Edmonton and surrounding areas.

K Country Conference Committee (formerly Canmore Conference Committee) ***$12,817***

The K Country Conference is an annual event that provides advanced victim services training to volunteer victim advocates and program coordinators. This educational event also presents opportunities for volunteers and program coordinators to network and share their knowledge and skills with others working in the field of victim services and crisis intervention. This grant was provided to assist with costs associated with organizing and hosting the conference for southern Alberta victims service units' front-line volunteers and program coordinators.

Lloydminster Sexual Assault & Information Centre (LSAIC) $14,000

The primary role of LSAIC is to provide crisis intervention, support and education to victims and survivors of sexual abuse. Services provided by LSAIC include accompanying victims to the hospital, the police, and preparing and accompanying sexual assault victims to court. The objectives of the Crisis Intervention/Victim Witness Program are to reduce the trauma for sexual assault victims by providing them with support and knowledge, to encourage victims to access referral networks, and to engage victims in a follow-up process and group recovery. Funding was provided to help operate the Centre's Crisis Intervention/Victim Witness Program and support to victims of sexual assault in the Lloydminster and surrounding areas.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD Canada) ***$75,000***

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) supports victims of impaired drivers, works towards stopping impaired drivers, provides educational campaigns and has toll-free victim support line. Funding was provided for the Death Notification Training Program. The program delivers compassionate death notification training to professionals such as police, victim support workers and emergency support workers in Alberta.

Partner Support Program ***$49,826***

In collaboration with Alberta Justice, Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter, and the YWCA, the Partner Support Program provides regular

Community Programs

contact and information regarding community resources and safety planning to victimized partners of domestic violence offenders. The Program supports victims in increasing their safety through risk assessment and safety planning as well as encouraging them to make positive choices for their children and themselves. The funding was granted to provide abused women with community resource information and safety planning in the Calgary and surrounding areas.

Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton (SACE) ***$55,000***

The Sexual Assault Center of Edmonton provides essential, specialized and cost effective sexual assault services aimed at both preventing the sexual assault and offering healing and recovery to those whom have been a victim of the sexual crime. The Centre assists in empowering victims affected by sexual abuse and assault, as well as assists communities to take action against sexual abuse. This grant was provided to help fund SACE's Diversity Outreach Program, which provides culturally sensitive and language specific services to victims, as well as workshops to ethno-cultural communities, including Aboriginal and Asian victims and communities.

Tsuu T'ina Nation Band—Stoney Corrections Society ***$40,000***

The Tsuu T'ina Nation Band– Stoney Corrections Society provides victim services for Tsuu T'ina and the three bands of the Stoney Tribes: Bearspaw, Chiniki and Wesley in the Morley, Eden Valley and Tsuu T'ina area. The Society provides interventions, referrals, victim impact statements, restitution, financial benefits, court orientation and support, as well as information on family violence and sexual assault. The grant was provided to enable the unit to become a fully established victim services program.

Zebra Child Protection Centre Society ***$100,000***

The Zebra Child Protection Centre was developed by members of the Edmonton Police Service, Child Protection Section, and co-professionals involved in the investigation of child maltreatment. The mandate of the Centre is to ensure that a multi-disciplinary and comprehensive investigation is conducted in the least intrusive and most protective environment possible. The program's advocates are specially trained to address the needs of child victims of physical and sexual abuse and their families. Funding was provided to assist child victims through the investigation, court preparation and accompaniment, and supporting them through the healing process.

Total ***$616,043***

In addition, a Victims of Crime Fund grant also supported the following community programs which received multi-year grants in either 2001/2002, 2002/2003, 2003/2004:

Alberta Police-Based Victim Services Association ***$75,000***
Canadian Society for the Investigation of Child Abuse ***$74,000***

Crisis Centre (formerly Central Alberta Sexual Assault Centre) ***$44,000***

Edmonton John Howard Society Victims' Assistance Program ***$81,250***

Providing Assistance, Counselling & Education on Sexual Assault & Sexual Abuse (PACE) ***$3,600***

Total ***$277,850***

Total Grants Approved or Provided to Community Programs in 2004/2005 ***$893,893***

The total amount provided to community-based programs was a 59% increase compared to 2003/2004.

Total Grants Provided in 2004/2005 ***$3,194,739***

PROGRAM ACTIVITY

Introduction

Information on the activities of victims service programs was collected using the Quarterly Report form. The Report collects information on the number of new cases, the number of persons assisted, and the type of assistance provided. For each of these variables, the Report categorizes assistance provided as either *Criminal Code – Violent* (e.g. homicide, violent sex offences, serious assaults, etc.), *Criminal Code – Non-violent* (e.g. forgery, fraud, theft, etc.), *Offence Non-criminal* (offences that do not fall within the *Criminal Code of Canada*, i.e., Provincial Statute Offences) or *Assistance – No offence* (e.g. sudden death, notifying next-of-kin, motor vehicle collisions, suicide, etc.).

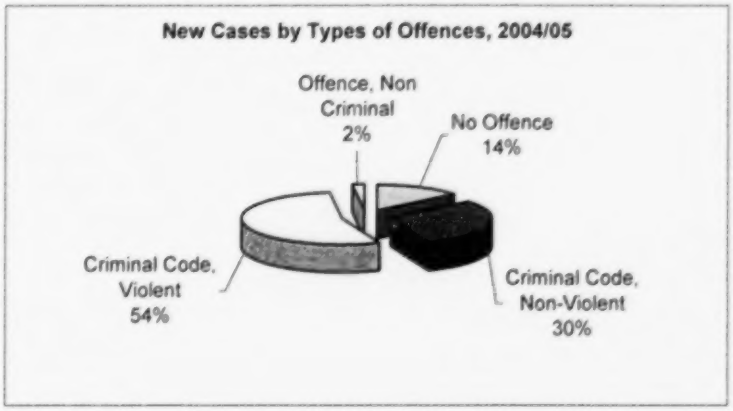
The Report also measures the number of volunteer hours, the number of victim impact statements completed and forwarded to the Crown prosecutor's office, and the number of restitution requests completed and forwarded to the Crown prosecutor.

The statistics were collected from quarterly report forms submitted by police based victim service units and community programs. Conditional funding agreements stipulate that all victim service units that receive a Victims of Crime Fund grant are required to submit quarterly statistics.

New Cases

During the 2004/2005 fiscal year, victim service programs reported handling 33,850 new cases. This was a 6% increase compared to 2003/2004 and the highest number of new cases in 6 years. New cases refer only to those cases (files) opened during the reporting period. A case may involve one or more victims, as well as family members or friends affected by an incident of crime. Of the 33,850 new cases, over half (54%) involved assisting victims of *Criminal Code-Violent* offences (Figure 3). Assistance was least often provided (2%) when the offence was *Non-Criminal which include* Provincial Statutes and Municipal Bylaws.

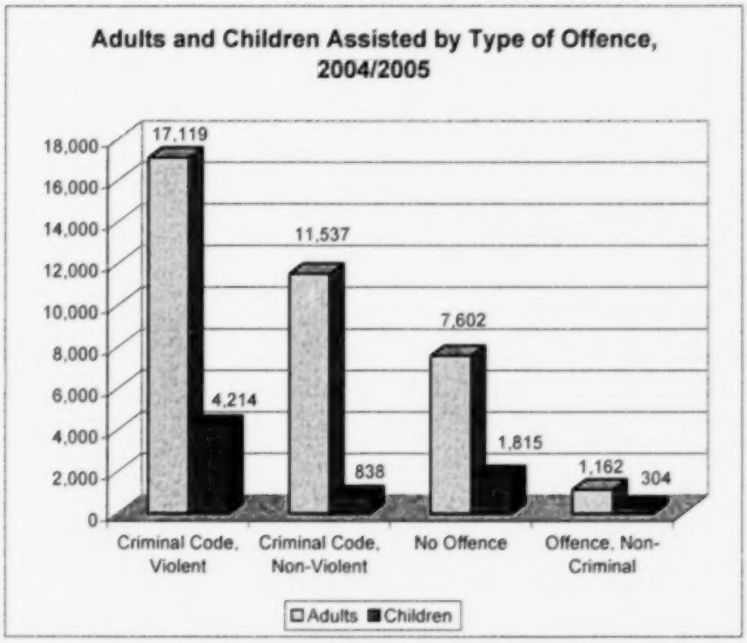
Figure 3


New Cases by Types of Offences, 2004/05
Offence, Non Criminal 2%
No Offence 14%
Criminal Code, Violent 54%
Criminal Code, Non-Violent 30%

Persons Assisted

Programs reported providing assistance to 44,591 people in 2004/2005, which is a 9% increase compared to 2003/2004 and the highest number in 6 years. Of the persons assisted, 37,420 (84%) were adults and 7,171 (16%) were children. Almost half of the people assisted (48%) were victims of a *Criminal Code – Violent* offence, followed by people assisted in the *Criminal Code – Non-violent* offence category (28%) (Figure 4). In 2004/2005, there was a 22% increase in persons assisted where no offence occurred, an 11% increase in persons assisted who were victims of a *Criminal Code-Non-Violent* offence and a 5% increase in persons assisted who were victims of a *Criminal Code–Violent* offence compared to 2003/2004.

Figure 4

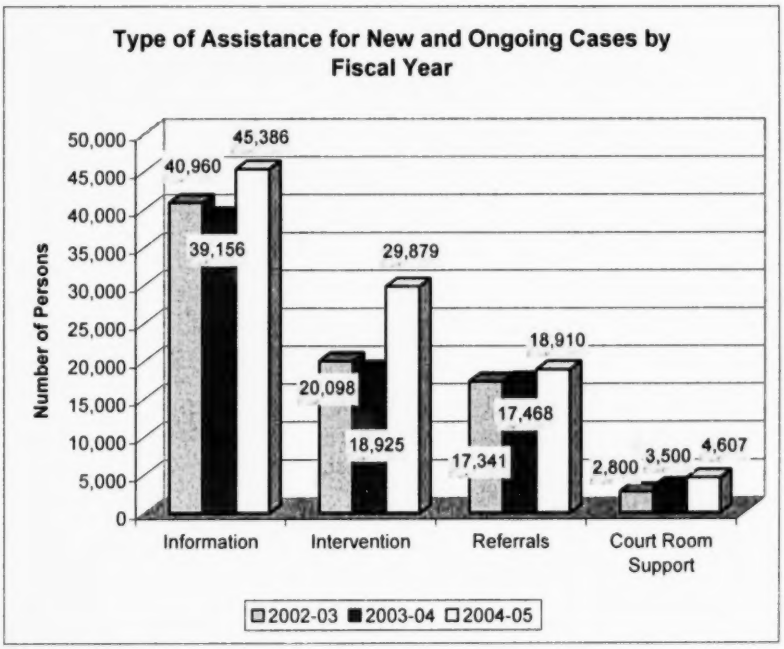


Type of Assistance

The type of assistance most frequently provided for new and ongoing cases was providing information which was a 16% increase compared to 2003/2004. Intervention, which includes crisis response, notification of next of kin, or practical assistance at a crime scene was the second most common type of assistance provided and a 58% increase from 2003/2004. This was followed by referrals to other agencies, an 8% increase compared to 2003/2004. While Court Room Support was provided in the least number of cases when compared to other types of assistance (Figure 5), in 2004/2005, the total Court Room Support was 32% greater compared to 2003/2004 and the highest number in 6 years.

In comparing assistance provided in *Non-Violent* versus *Violent* Criminal Code Offences, assistance was most often provided when the incident/ offence was in the *Violent Criminal Code* category.

Figure 5



Volunteer Hours

In 2004/2005, approximately 1,687 volunteer advocates and board members contributed a total of 234,857 volunteer hours. This equates to approximately 124 people working full time for a one year period. This figure also includes hours volunteered by program staff over and above their paid time. While there has been a 5% increase in the number of volunteer advocates, there has been an 2% decrease in the number of volunteer hours compared to 2003/2004. During 2004/2005, on average, programs employed 63 full-time and 80 part-time paid staff.

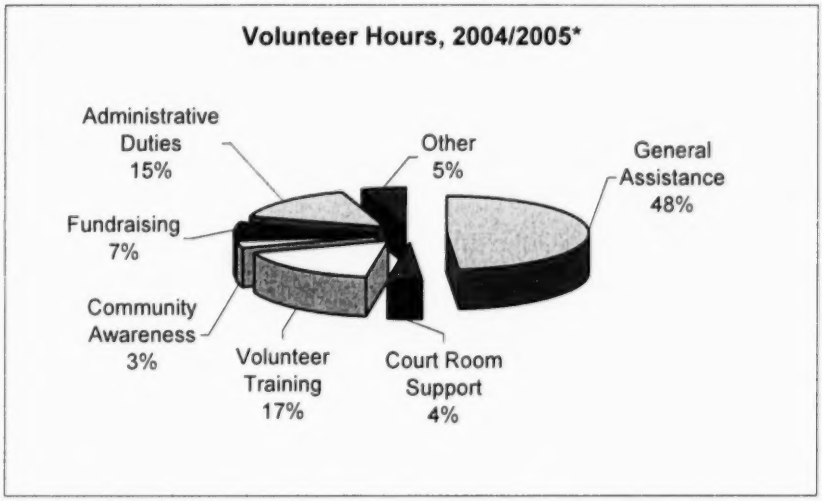
Providing general assistance (information, intervention and referrals) to victims accounted for 48% of volunteer time. Seventeen percent (17%)

Volunteer Hours

of volunteer hours were dedicated to volunteer training, followed by administrative duties, at 15%. The remaining hours were spent on fundraising (7%), other activities such as meetings and travel time (5%), court room support (4%), and community awareness (3%) (Figure 6).*

*Figures do not add to 100% due to the rounding of figures to whole numbers.

Figure 6



ALBERTA SOLICITOR GENERAL AND PUBLIC SECURITY & INITIATIVES

Victim Impact Statement Program

The Victim Impact Statement Program provides victims in Alberta with the opportunity to have input into sentencing by describing in writing, to the Court, how they have been affected by the crime.

Police notify all victims of crime of this opportunity and provide information about the nearest victim service unit, where the Victim Impact Statement Form and assistance in completing it can be obtained. As of December 1, 1999, victims have the option of reading their statements aloud in court. If the victim has chosen to do so, the police or victim services notify the victim of the court dates for sentencing. Prior to sentencing, the Court is required to inquire if the victim has been advised of the opportunity to prepare a statement, and may adjourn proceedings to permit the victim to prepare a statement.

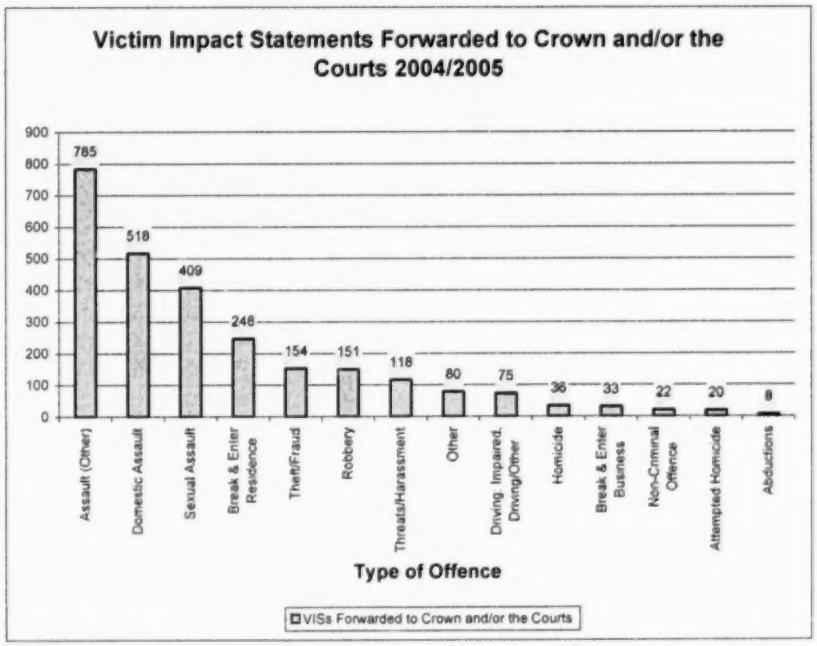
In 2004/2005, revised Victim Impact Statement guidelines and procedures were developed and distributed to victim service units and community programs, Crown Prosecutors, court services, correction services, and police services for implementation. Approximately 500

Victim Impact Statement Program

persons attended training seminars on the new Victim Impact Statement guidelines and procedures. Two major changes occurred in Victim Impact Statement procedures: Victim Impact Statements are not disclosed until after a finding of guilt and are now sent directly to the Clerk of the Court for filing, rather than to the police and the Crown Prosecutor. The new Victim Impact procedures are consistent with Criminal Code provisions and recent Alberta case law.

In the 2004/2005 reporting period, 2,554 Victim Impact Statements were sent to the Clerk of the Court (under the new procedures). Nine-hundred and thirty-two Victim Impact Statements were completed and returned to the Police Service and 103 were forwarded to the Crown Prosecutor's Office (under the previous procedures). The 2,657 Victim Impact Statements forwarded to the Crown and the Courts was a 14% increase compared to 2003/2004. The majority (67%) of the Victim Impact Statements forwarded concerned common assault, sexual assault and domestic assault offences. (Figure 7)*

Figure 7



Requesting Restitution Program

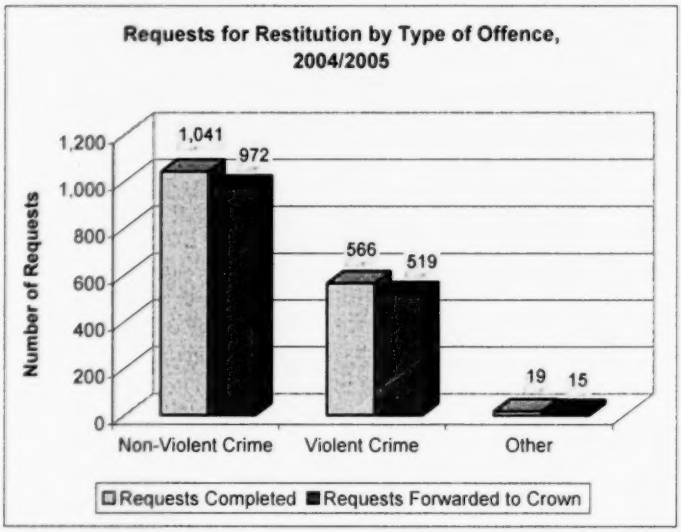
The Requesting Restitution Program provides victims of crime who have suffered a financial loss with information about how they can request that the offender pay restitution. A crime victim may complete a Request for Restitution Form provided by the police officer investigating the case or a victim support worker. Once the form is completed, the victim returns it to police, who then forwards it to the Crown prosecutor. The Crown Prosecutor may make the application for restitution to the Court, or may decline to do so. If the Crown declines, the victim may request the Court to do so on its own motion.

Requesting Restitution Program

Restitution may be ordered for damage, destruction and loss of property, bodily harm, expenses incurred in moving out of the offender's house, as in spousal abuse cases, or for losses incurred by unknowingly purchasing or lending money on stolen property.

For the 2004/2005 year, 1,626 Requests for Restitution were completed and returned to police and of these, 1,506 were forwarded to the Crown. This represents an increase of 3% and 1%, respectively, from 2003/2004. The majority of the Requests for Restitution completed and returned to police concerned Non-Violent Crime (64%), with the next largest category being Violent Crime (35%). The category Other accounted for 1% of requests for restitution completed and returned to police. (Fig. 8) While the Requests for Restitution remained stable in the Non-Violent Crime category, there were a 9% increase in Requests Completed and a 7% increase in Requests Forwarded to the Crown for the Violent Category compared to 2003/2004.

Figure 8



Victim Assistance Coordinator Training

In 2004/2005, 42 participants attended Victim Assistance Coordinators' Training. Several training sessions were delivered to participants including victim service unit program coordinators, victim advocates, police members, Court Services staff, Crown Prosecutors and Criminal Justice staff, Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security staff, Department of National Defense, and Aboriginal representatives.

The training provides information about the criminal justice system, federal and provincial legislation concerning victims of crime, and

information on related programs assisting victims in Alberta.

Victim Advocate Training Manual

In 2002, Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security distributed the *Victim Advocate Training Manual* to victim service units throughout Alberta. The Manual establishes a provincial standard for Victim Advocate training, and creates an opportunity for Victim Advocates to become certified. In September, 2004, the Victim Advocate Training Manual Initiative was a Silver Award Recipient of the Premier's Award of Excellence. In 2004/2005, 175 Victim Advocates received certification from the Justice/Solicitor General and Public Security Staff College.

Quarterly Report Form

Since April 1, 1998, victim service programs have been required to complete the Victim Services Quarterly Report. This statistical collection form provides Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security with information about services provided to victims and acts as a measure of accountability for grant monies awarded. The Quarterly Report has standardized the reporting process and improved the quality of information collected about services provided to victims in Alberta.

Victims of Crime Website

The Victims of Crime section of the website contains a wide range of information on victims' programs and services in Alberta including:

- Help for Victims of Crime;
- Financial Benefits Program;
- Victim Program Grants;
- Requesting Restitution; and
- Contact Information for Victim Service Units, Community Programs, and the Victims Services Branch, Solicitor General and Public Security.

The website address is:
http://www.solgen.gov.ab.ca/victim/default.aspx

APPENDIX A

ALBERTA POLICE BASED VICTIM SERVICE UNITS

Brochures

A series of brochures designed to increase awareness of programs available to victims of crime and to provide specific information on victim impact statements, restitution and financial benefits was distributed to police services, victim services units and other agencies that provide assistance to victims of crime.

Contact Information

CONTACT US

To obtain copies of brochures go to
http://www.dbf.com/mktg/acsc/request_ext.asp.

For additional information, contact
Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security at:

Victims Programs
Public Security Division
Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security
10th Floor, John E. Brownlee Building
10365 – 97 Street
Edmonton AB T5J 3W7
Phone: (780) 427-3460 (local calls) or
310-0000 (toll-free within Alberta) or through our web-site at
http://www.solgen.gov.ab.ca/victim/default.aspx